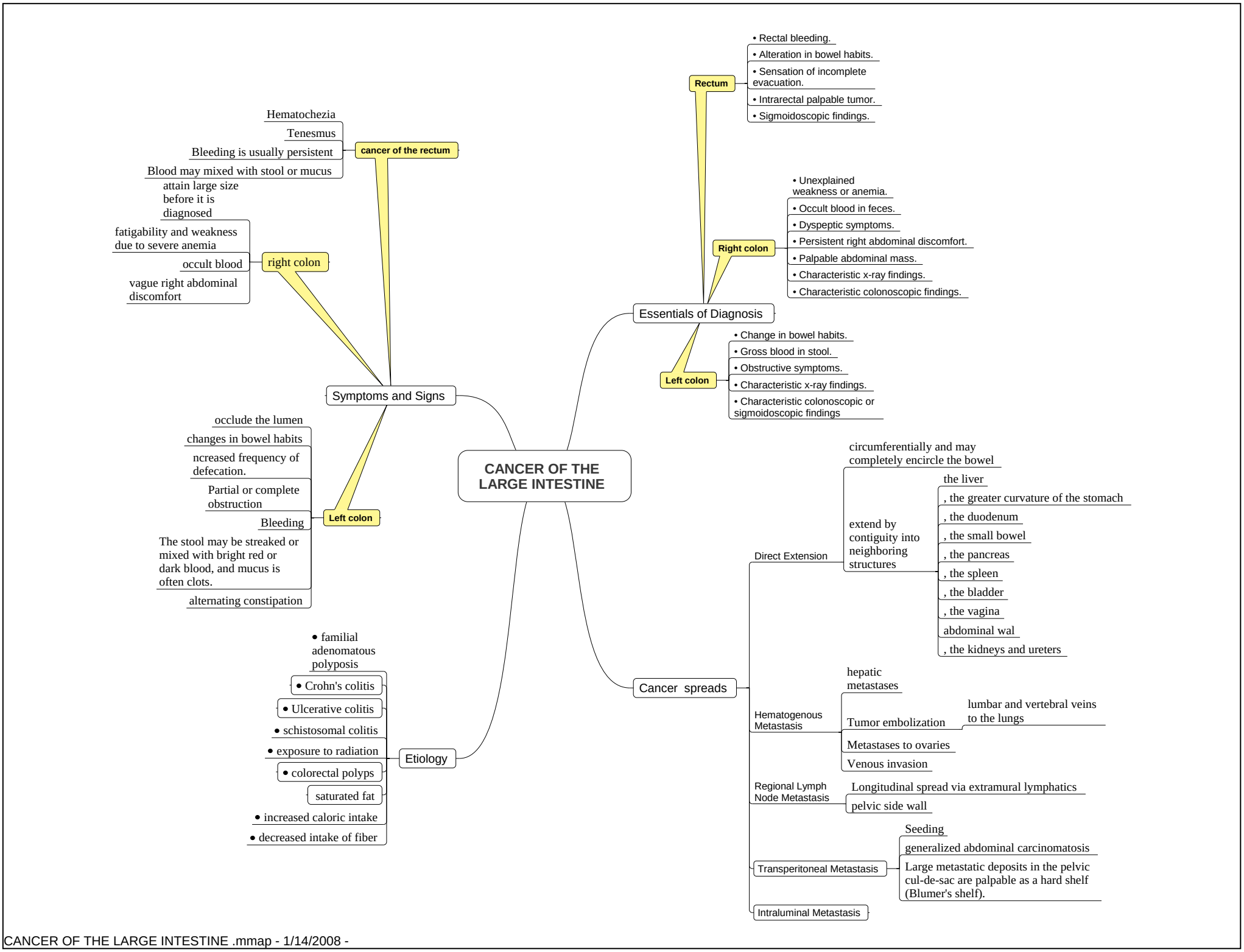
CANCER OF THE LARGE INTESTINE
Symptoms and Signs
cancer of the rectum
Hematochezia
Tenesmus
Bleeding is usually persistent
Blood may mixed with stool or mucus
right colon
attain large size before it is diagnosed
fatigability and weakness due to severe anemia
occult blood
vague right abdominal discomfort
Left colon
occlude the lumen
changes in bowel habits
ncreased frequency of defecation.
Partial or complete obstruction
Bleeding
The stool may be streaked or mixed with bright red or dark blood, and mucus is often clots.
alternating constipation
Essentials of Diagnosis
Rectum
• Rectal bleeding.
• Alteration in bowel habits.
• Sensation of incomplete evacuation.
• Intrarectal palpable tumor.
• Sigmoidoscopic findings.
Right colon
• Unexplained weakness or anemia.
• Occult blood in feces.
• Dyspeptic symptoms.
• Persistent right abdominal discomfort.
• Palpable abdominal mass.
• Characteristic x-ray findings.
• Characteristic colonoscopic findings.
Left colon
• Change in bowel habits.
• Gross blood in stool.
• Obstructive symptoms.
• Characteristic x-ray findings.
• Characteristic colonoscopic or sigmoidoscopic findings
Cancer spreads
Direct Extension
extend by contiguity into neighboring structures
circumferentially and may completely encircle the bowel
the liver
, the greater curvature of the stomach
, the duodenum
, the small bowel
, the pancreas
, the spleen
, the bladder
, the vagina
abdominal wal
, the kidneys and ureters
Hematogenous Metastasis
hepatic metastases
Tumor embolization
lumbar and vertebral veins to the lungs
Metastases to ovaries
Venous invasion
Regional Lymph Node Metastasis
Longitudinal spread via extramural lymphatics
pelvic side wall
Transperitoneal Metastasis
Seeding
generalized abdominal carcinomatosis
Large metastatic deposits in the pelvic cul-de-sac are palpable as a hard shelf (Blumer's shelf).
Intraluminal Metastasis
Etiology
• familial adenomatous polyposis
• Crohn's colitis
• Ulcerative colitis
• schistosomal colitis
• exposure to radiation
• colorectal polyps
saturated fat
• increased caloric intake
• decreased intake of fiber